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1 DECEMBER 1983

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir departed Washington 30 November, Jerusalem radio announced, after attending a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where he discussed the situation in Lebanon and agreed to a U.S. proposal calling for greater power for the Lebanese factions. However, Shamir said he "would not agree to changing one word" of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the radio noted.

Lebanon

President in Washington — President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Washington 1 December. In an arrival statement broadcast by Beirut radio, Al-Jumayyil expressed confidence that the current "impasse" in Lebanon can be overcome within the framework of "American-Lebanese privileged relations" and reaffirmed that his government remains committed to President Reagan's peace initiative.

Military Developments — One French soldier was killed by sniper fire, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, and a French patrol came under RPG fire, according to Beirut radio. The Voice of Lebanon quoted "security sources" as repeating warnings to the Multinational Force on possible attacks. The radio also said that "well over 600 Iranians" armed with medium-caliber weapons entered Beirut on 28 and 29 November and that the Iranian-supported Hezbollah has brought more surface-to-surface missiles and SAM-7's into the southern suburb.

PLO Affairs

The cease-fire between supporters and opponents of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was disrupted by intermittent clashes in various parts of Tripoli, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, 'Arafat met with a delegation from the Tripoli Coordination Committee to discuss arrangements for implementation of the Saudi-Syrian agreement. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Tripoli Mayor 'Ashir ad-Dayi, a member of the delegation, described the meeting as "very positive," noting that 'Arafat promised to respect the security and safety of the city. 'Arafat informed the committee of his conditions to depart Tripoli, which include demands that Arab League or UN forces supervise implementation of the Damascus agreement and that evacuees leave for specified destinations under security guarantees.

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the chairman of the Coordination Committee, announced in Damascus that he was awaiting replies from 'Arafat and Fatah dissident leader Nimr Salih concerning arrangements for the departure of Palestinian forces from Tripoli, the radio also reported.

Saudi King Fahd issued a Palestine solidarity day message, reported by SPA, in which he denounced Israel's "aggressive and brutal" practices but did not mention the rift within the PLO.

Morocco

King Hassan II appointed a new Cabinet, appointing Mohamed Karim Lamrani prime minister and replacing Maati Bouabid, who became a minister of state, Rabat radio reported. Abdelouahid Belkeziz was appointed minister of foreign affairs. M'hamed Boucetta remains in the Cabinet as a minister of state, although the radio did not say whether he will continue his role in foreign affairs.

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'Arafat Rejects Pessimism Over PLO Future

AU301419 Vienna Domestic Television Service in German 2115 GMT 29 Nov 83

["Exclusive interview" with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Austrian radio and television reporter Hans Benedict, date and place not given — in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Benedict] Mr Chairman, the internal conflict has obviously harmed the PLO and you as the PLO chairman. The PLO and you have suffered poorer reputations internationally. How do you intend to repair this damage?

['Arafat] How can you say this is an internal conflict? It is not an internal conflict. I am very concerned that you are accepting a rumor that was spread in order to harm the cause of the Palestinians, for what we are experiencing here is a foreign, an Arab intervention and an international confrontation with the Libyans and Syrians. They want to oppress the PLO. In this confrontation, Syria and Libya have used two divisions against us, and in addition 154 guns and 90 rocket batteries. In Tripoli they have shelled us for 3 weeks.

[Benedict] Then your situation remains precarious militarily despite the cease-fire agreement?

['Arafat] Not at all — for actually we are the besiegers. It is we who are besieging the Americans, the Israelis, the Syrians, and the Libyans. As long as I am here, I am the political besieger. That is our Palestinian phenomenon.

[Benedict] But, Mr Chairman, one of your closest friends and allies in the critical phases of the conflict, former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, has written: 'Arafat is finished. 'Arafat failed because he left the Palestinians while they were still fighting in Beirut.

['Arafat] I am astonished that my friend Kreisky has written a thing like that.

[Benedict] Kreisky's article does reflect great pessimism among your friends, does it not?

['Arafat] All I can say is that I am astonished and surprised. But we'll see. It is better for you to wait and see.

[Benedict] In other words, you do not see yourself as the loser?

['Arafat] I am a man of history. One cannot judge and assess me by the yardstick of one or two events. Our struggle is a long struggle, a long resistance. It has its ups and downs, like the waves of the sea, like the high and low tide. This is our revolution. It certainly no picnic.

[Benedict] In the PLO (?there is talk of) a war of attrition against Israel. Is that not pointless in view of what has happened to date in Lebanon and elsewhere?

['Arafat] The war of attrition started long ago. As soon as we can, we will escalate the war.

[Benedict] But will that not again provoke Israeli retaliation blows in Lebanon?

['Arafat] If your country is under occupation you have no choice but to continue the struggle. Would you tolerate foreign aggression in your country? Would you tolerate the invaders? No, you would not. You would fight.

'Arafat Outlines Terms for Tripoli Departure

NC301415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Vov 83

[Text] The security situation in Tripoli suffered a setback this afternoon when clashes took place at 1530 on the Jabal Muhsin, At-Tabbanah, Al-Mallulah, Al-Qubbah, and Hayy al-Baqqar axes. The clashes intensified at 1615 and, 15 minutes later, turned into intermittent fire exchanges. The clashes, which could be the prelude to an attempt to heat up the situation in Tripoli, came shortly after a Tripoli Coordination Committee delegation met with Yasir 'Arafat within the framework of the committee's task of making preparations for the implementation of the Saudi-Syrian agreement and conveying these preparations to [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The delegation was composed of 'Adnan al-Jisr, Wasif Fattal, 'Ashir ad-Dayi, Rashid Jammalah, Midhat Kusa, and Ghazi al-Adhami.

'Arafat handed the delegation his terms for his departure from Tripoli. These are summed up in the following points:

1. The Arab League or the UN forces in Lebanon should supervise the implementation of the Damascus agreement.

2. The evacuees' security on the sea must be ensured, and the ships which will transport them and the places to which they will go should be defined. In this respect, 'Arafat proposed that each ship should depart separately and not all together.

3. The fate of the loyal forces which were in the Al-Biqa' and the places to which they will go must be defined.

4. A delegation of Saudi observers should supervise the departure of the loyal forces.

5. A complete departure plan should be drafted by the coordination committee, accompanied by a timetable and special arrangements.

Tripoli Mayor 'Ashir ad-Dayi explained what went on during the meeting between the Coordination Committee delegation and 'Arafat. He said:

[Begin recording] The meeting of the Higher Coordination Committee representatives with Brother Abu 'Ammar was very positive. The discussion dealt with the details of the implementation of the Syrian-Saudi agreement. The Coordination Committee representatives also conveyed a written message from Prime Minister Karami to Brother Abu 'Ammar, who read it and promised to answer it soon.

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'Arafat Claims Political Victory Over Dissidents

Tripoli Evacuation, U.S. Raids

NC042041 Paris AFP in English 2037 GMT 4 Dec 83

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Tripoli, North Lebanon, Dec 4 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today claimed a political victory over the Syrian-backed dissidents surrounding his troops in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. "Nobody can provoke a split within the PLO by a military attack or aggression" he told French journalists at his Tripoli headquarters.

Mr 'Arafat said that although his troops were "besieged" in Tripoli as a result of the recent fighting in north Lebanon, the PLO was now "stronger than ever". "We have been able to face up to all the attacks, even the military attack we are suffering at this moment, because the mass of Palestinians in the occupied territories have proved to the world that the Palestinian people are united and totally support the PLO" he said. His "message to the world" was that the Palestinians formed "a sole entity, inside the occupied territories as well as outside", he added.

On the political front, the section of the PLO that remained loyal to Mr 'Arafat had won a clear political victory "in the Arab world, with the non-aligned countries, in the Islamic community, and even in the United Nations". Welcoming yesterday's agreement by the United Nations to provide ships to evacuate his troops from Tripoli, Mr 'Arafat said he hoped it would lead to a quick response from Syria. "In any case," he said, "it (the agreement) proves that the public opinion represented at the United Nations is worried by what is happening here".

There were still two details of the evacuation which had not yet been settled in negotiations with Syria, Mr 'Arafat said. These were the security of Tripoli after his men left, and the security of the nearby Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid refugee camps taken by the Syrian-backed dissidents during the fighting.

But he said the breach between himself and Syria need not be permanent. "In 1976 (during the Syrian-Palestinian conflicts in Lebanon) we ended by finding a compromise," he said. "Now, I still hold out my hand to my Syrian brothers. We are Arabs, and we form a single nation".

He strongly condemned today's "barbaric" U.S. air raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon, and said he "totally supported" Syria against Israeli and American air raids.

After leaving Tripoli, Mr 'Arafat said he would like to reopen discussions with King Husayn of Jordan on the future of the Palestinians based on the "Fes plan" worked out at the Arab summit in Morocco last year. His first stop after leaving the city will be Tunisia, where his political headquarters are, and he also plans to visit his military headquarters in North Yemen.

Mr 'Arafat has also been invited to visit King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Husayn of Jordan, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Condemns U.S. Raids

JN041915 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] In Tripoli, Lebanon, Yasir 'Arafat has strongly condemned the U.S. aggression against Syrian positions and described it as barbaric. He expressed support for Syria, adding: I am still extending my hand to my Syrian brothers. We are Arabs and we are one nation.

Predicts Attack on Tripoli

LD040026 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, stressed this afternoon in Tripoli that the Syrian forces intend to advance in the direction of the city following their concentrated artillery shelling of the Palestine revolution forces' positions last night. At a press conference held this afternoon, Brother Abu 'Ammar added that the Syrians also shelled Tripoli port with the intention of destroying it, and that last night they concentrated rocket shelling on the port. They also shelled our positions in (Mahlul), (Bab at-Tibbanah), and the port sector near [name indistinct]. They attacked the area on three axes: south, north, and east. At 0300 they launched a new attack in the northern direction but our forces succeeded in repelling them.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman affirmed that the Syrians supplied the dissidents with live ammunition and weapons, groups of fighters, and equipment.

Links With Egypt

NC041050 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has made a statement to the *ROSE AL-YUSUF* magazine. The statement will be published in tomorrow's issue of the magazine. 'Arafat said the final outcome of the messages he sent to President Mubarak and the responses he received in reply indicate that they agree that what is facing the Palestinian revolution is a grave conspiracy which is directed at the area as a whole and not only at the Palestinian people.

Answering a question regarding the fact that his military command in San'a' is located far away from the heart of the main battle, 'Arafat said: I wish my headquarters were in Egypt. He added: During the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956, I fought under the command of an Egyptian. I would like to go back to Egypt.

The PLO chairman was asked whether the departure of his forces from Beirut meant the fall of the military solution. 'Arafat answered: On the contrary, the most wonderful war of attrition against Israel is the one that we and our Lebanese allies fought after our departure from Beirut. He described the Palestinian revolution as a giant — a full nation of 5 million Palestinians moving in every direction.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Israeli Bombardment Kills 1, Wounds 3 in Tripoli

NC090720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Fatah issued a military statement in Tripoli today saying that an Israeli warship shelled pro-'Arafat forces in Tripoli port at dawn today. The statement added that the warship, escorted by five naval boats, helicopters, and warplanes, began the shelling at a time when the naval boats were approaching the coast in a landing attempt.

The statement further said that the fedayeen preparing to leave Tripoli following a 1-month siege by the rebels fired at the boats and forced them to retreat to the high sea. The statement added that one fedayeen was killed and three others were wounded in the shelling. It further said that Israeli boats and helicopters were still roaming the northern Lebanese coast 4 hours after the shelling.

'Arafat's aides say they had expected an Israeli attack since last Tuesday when they claimed responsibility for the explosion in a bus in Jerusalem which killed four Israelis and wounded 43 others.

Prelude to 'Large-Scale Offensive'

JN090825 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, the Fatah command spokesman, announced today that Israeli gunboats are blockading Tripoli to prevent the pro-'Arafat fighters from leaving the city and that the Fatah movement considers the Israeli attack that took place at dawn today to be a prelude to a large-scale offensive the nature of which has not yet been ascertained. The Palestinian spokesman said that the Fatah command has contacted UN Secretary General Perez de Cullar and asked him to convey to the Security Council the details of the situation that resulted from the Israeli blockade. The Fatah movement has also asked the Greek, French, and Italian authorities to help lift the Israeli blockade.

The Palestinian spokesman also called on the Syrian and Libyan forces to lift the land siege they are imposing on Tripoli. He asked them to extend assistance to the pro-'Arafat forces that are confronting the Israeli aggression and to stand by the PLO leadership.

Spokesman: France, Greece 'To Cover' Withdrawal

NC081315 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon, Dec 8 (AFP) — France and Greece have agreed to provide "cover" for the departure of Yasir 'Arafat's forces from this northern port, an 'Arafat spokesman said today. The spokesman, Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, did not confirm reports that the Palestine Liberation Organization loyalists would leave tomorrow. He said only that the estimated 4,000 troops would depart within two weeks, and that certain technical details on the departures (?have still) to be completed. He did, however, say that four Greek ferries and two freighters would help evacuate the fighters. Greece has said that four ferries bearing the United Nations flag would arrive to pick up (?the) PLO tomorrow.

Mr. 'Abd ar-Rahman also said that Italy was being asked for what he termed "cover" for the departing troops. He did not say what type of cover was envisaged.

Concerning the loyalists' destinations, he said only that two of the ferries would go to Tunis, a five-day sea journey, and that the two others would go to North Yemen, about 10 days away. He did not say where the freighters would go.

Mr. 'Abd ar-Rahman said the troops would leave with both their personal weapons and their heavy artillery, to "avoid giving the Syrians an excuse to invade Tripoli" after they left. This appeared to be at odds with the reports of the terms of a Syrian-Saudi mediation agreement, under which the fighters would leave only with their personal weapons.

'Technical Problems' Cause Delay

NC081634 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Northern Lebanon, Dec 8 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat said here today there were only "technical problems" remaining over the planned sea evacuation of his fighters from this besieged city. He said he had sent a message to Damascus to Rashid Karami, the political leader directing the evacuation, concerning points still under discussion.

The question of whether the Palestinians would have a multinational escort on leaving Tripoli had not yet been settled, Mr 'Arafat said. "I can't give details," he said, "because in the discussion there is not only me but the Saudis, the Syrians, and Mr Karami."

Italians May Escort 'Arafat

AU081542 Rome ANSA in English 1524 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text](ANSA) Beirut, December 8 — It is likely that an Italian warship will escort PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his loyalist troops from Lebanon to Algiers, PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman told "ANSA" today. 'Abd ar-Rahman said the PLO had called on France and Italy to guarantee an escort for the Fedayeen that are preparing to withdraw from Tripoli in northern Lebanon following statements made yesterday by former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon that "'Arafat must not leave Tripoli alive". France has already assured its assistance, while contacts with Italy are still under way.

According to well-informed sources, the need for a double escort stems from the fact that some of 'Arafat's troops will be going to Algeria while others are headed for North Yemen. A French vessel could escort the convoy to North Yemen, while an Italian ship would accompany 'Arafat to Algiers.

The PLO fighters' pullout will probably take place between Saturday and Monday. One of the four Greek ships that will

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Kuwait Bombings

Aftermath — Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, cited by KUNA, placed the total number of victims in the seven bombings in Kuwait on 12 December at 4 dead and 62 injured. Summarizing reports on the explosions, KUNA noted that the first bomb, which was at the U.S. Embassy, was the only suicide attack. A truck loaded with explosives was driven at high speed through the embassy gate and into the embassy building, where it exploded. The driver was apparently not killed and was captured, the agency said, while the building eventually collapsed. The agency added that the car bomb that exploded at the airport damaged the communications center and control tower and killed one and injured several others, while the car bomb at the French Embassy badly damaged the consulate building but only injured three. Similar car bombs exploded outside buildings housing Americans in two suburbs, causing slight damage but no casualties, while another car bomb exploded near the Ash-Shu'aybah oil installation, injuring 10 people, but did not affect operations, the agency stated. KUNA also confirmed earlier reports that another bomb was discovered and defused before it exploded near a government passport office.

A Kuwaiti security official cited by KUNA announced that some suspects had been captured, while all involved "will soon be rounded up," and observed that the explosions all used a common device. Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah condemned the attacks and promised to take the "strictest and toughest measures" against the "criminals and culprits" and to "purge the country of all suspicious elements," KUNA reported.

Reaction — Iraq will "strike militarily against selected Iranian targets" in retaliation for "Iran's heinous crime" against Kuwait, a military spokesman declared in a statement to INA. In addition to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, and the YAR all sent messages of support, KUNA stated, while SPA, WAKH, Baghdad radio, and San'a' radio each reported their government's statement condemning the blasts. The GCC "condemned and denounced" the explosions, SPA announced, and the organization's Secretariat General began "intensive contacts" among the member states aimed at agreeing on "unified Gulf action to confront such incidents," WAKH divulged. Elsewhere in the Middle East, Lebanon's Shafiq al-Wazzan "repudiated" the bombings, according to Beirut radio, while the Egyptian ambassador in Kuwait was reported by MENA as denouncing such "terrorist acts."

PLO Affairs

The PLO has received a guarantee from Syria and Saudi Arabia that forces loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be able to leave Tripoli unharmed and it hopes to begin the evacuation "within the next 48 hours," 'Arafat's spokesman in Tripoli announced on 12 December in remarks reported by ANSA. Meanwhile, a PLO source in Tunis revealed that PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi will visit Damascus in an attempt to improve Palestinian-Syrian relations, according to KUNA.

As for Israel's opposition to 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in remarks broadcast by IDF Radio that he hopes Israel "will not have to use force" to prevent the evacuation. It seems incomprehensible that the United Nations and "some Western powers" want to assist the departure of 'Arafat and his "terrorists" from Lebanon so that they can resume terrorist activities elsewhere, Arens contended.

In another development, an official source cited by Beirut radio stated that Tunisia has made no preparations to receive Palestinian fighters from Tripoli. In a statement broadcast by Tunis radio, the Tunisian foreign minister appealed to Syria and the Palestinian dissidents to end their differences with the PLO leadership and break the siege around Tripoli.

Syria

TISHRIN Warning — Syria has the right to defend itself if it is exposed to a new "aggression," and this makes all the U.S. and NATO military forces in Lebanon and the Mediterranean possible targets because they are hostile to Syria, the daily *TISHRIN* declared in a 12 December article reviewed by Damascus radio.

Al-Asad, Internal Situation — President Hafiz al-Asad's health is "good," a presidential spokesman announced in a statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed that gunfire was heard in Damascus on 12 December and that Syrian authorities imposed stringent security measures in the capital.

Lebanon

The French Foreign Ministry's secretary general visited Beirut to meet with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Beirut radio reported. The purpose of the visit was not known, but French Embassy sources "suggested" it was connected with "deliberations" on the Lebanese situation. Meanwhile, a source close to Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt announced that the "displaced persons" in the besieged Phalangist-held town of Dayr al-Qamar will be evacuated on 14 December, according to Damascus radio. The source elaborated that the Italian contingent of the Multinational Force will supervise the withdrawal of Phalangist fighters within 24 hours, while the International Red Cross will supervise the evacuation of civilians, which must be completed within 5 days.

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7 Dec AL-MADINAH Interview

GF101323 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 7 Dec 83 p 13

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by *AL-MADINAH* correspondent Kamil Hazir in Tripoli — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-MADINAH*: Is it possible to say that the recent agreement about Tripoli may lead to a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation? What are 'Arafat's conditions to reach a compromise with Syria?

'Arafat: There are no conditions for reconciliation between me and any Arab. If you look at the fact that we are one family, you will understand that there are no conditions between me and any Arab. I used to say before the war erupted between me and the Syrians and Libyans in northern Lebanon that I was ready for a meeting and I called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad more than once to arrange for this meeting. omitted]

AL-MADINAH: Previously, the question was what would happen after Beirut. Now, the question is what will happen after Tripoli.

'Arafat: Our Arab nation should be asked that. I ask the Arab nation: Has this world become too small for the Palestinian Revolution? Regrettably, the one who is chasing the revolution is not Israel.

AL-MADINAH: 'Arafat asks for Arab guarantees to leave Tripoli. The international guarantees in Beirut before could not provide protection for the camps in Sabra and Shatila.

'Arafat: I demand these guarantees so that at least those who give them can be held responsible for what happens. I demand them so there will not be a new Tal az-Za'tar or a new Sabra and Shatila, whether in Tripoli or in the camps.

AL-MADINAH: What about what is being said about rapproachment between the PLO and Egypt?

'Arafat: No. There is no rapproachment as rumors say. What happened is that during the war in northern Lebanon there was a telephone conversation between me and President Husni Mubarak, who expressed good wishes and readiness to help the PLO and announced Egypt's position in support of the PLO and its leadership, which was legally elected. I thanked President Husni Mubarak and things stopped at that. On this occasion, I must appreciate the Egyptian medical delegation which represents all Egypt. The arrival of this delegation was an expression of the Egyptian people's stand alongside the revolution, the PLO, and the bold city of Tripoli and its heroic inhabitants.

AL-MADINAH: What is the future of relations with Jordan and the dialogue between 'Arafat and King Husayn?

'Arafat: After my exit from Tripoli I said that I will continue my other duties and that I will continue political work. I will continue to follow up the implementation of the political program on basis of which I was elected as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. As we are trying to reach a compromise with our brothers in Syria according to the political program which was approved recently in Tripoli, we are endeavoring to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. Before I came to Tripoli, an official Jordanian delegation visited me. I also sent Hani al-Hasan to Amman. Many of my brothers in the PLO visited Jordan and held talks there.

AL-MADINAH: How does 'Arafat assess the Israeli and U.S. reactions?

'Arafat: What is happening in Tripoli is a continuation of the Israeli conspiracy which took place in Beirut.

AL-MADINAH: What does 'Arafat say to Israel?

'Arafat: I want to say nothing except that the Palestinian revolution is not a military base. The revolution is the will of 5 million Palestinians backed by 150 million Arabs.

12 Dec ATH-THAWRAH Interview

JN121917 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1628 GMT 12 Dec 83

["Text" of interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by Iraqi paper *ATH-THAWRAH* in Tripoli, published on 12 December]

[Text] Question: Is it your fate to pass through successive sieges? You are currently besieged in Tripoli. How do you view the future?

Answer: We are living in a state of lifting sieges too. In spite of this, the siege that has been imposed on us in Tripoli is more painful than the siege of Beirut because the Beirut siege was imposed by our Arab nation's enemy while now it is a siege that is imposed by brothers. While Israel is wreaking havoc in the Arab region, the Palestinian revolution is besieged. Our future generations will never believe that this had taken place.

But this has taken place in an era of Arab deterioration. It took place while we, and the heroic Tripoli citizens in this Arab and Islamic city, are being showered by hundreds of thousands of shells. During the past 72 hours, the average was 69 shells per minute on the Al-Mina', Al-Qubbah, and other quarters. The shelling also damaged the water supply and electricity networks, not to mention the huge destruction sustained by the various plants, medical storage centers, and fire brigade centers. The same applies to Al-Baddawi refugee camp, most of which was destroyed and where hundreds of women, children, and old people were killed. I wonder: Who would have imagined that such a thing could happen? But this has taken place. I can only ask our Arab nation: What now? How can this nation accept what is happening now? How? How?

Question: A cease-fire agreement was recently reached, but it seems that it is not bolding. How do you explain the violation of this agreement? Is this a natural thing that precedes the imple-

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PLO Affairs

The evacuation of Palestinian forces from Tripoli by five Greek ships will begin on 18 December, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* according to KUNA. A Greek Government spokesman declared that the ships will pick up 'Arafat and his forces early on 19 December, according to Athens radio. The spokesman added that consultations with the U.S., French, Syrian, Israeli, Italian, British, and Lebanese governments secured guarantees for the safety of the Greek ships and crews and for 'Arafat and his men.

Israeli "political circles" stressed that Israel has given "no guarantees or any other promises regarding the Greek ships," according to Jerusalem radio. The "very least" that Israel expects from those assisting 'Arafat is that they require him to lay down his arms and promise that he and his people will never again engage in terrorist activity, Defense Minister Moshe Arens declared in remarks broadcast by the radio. Unless 'Arafat satisfies these conditions, Arens said, no assistance should be given to him.

Lebanon

Military Situation — The Lebanese Government and the main opposition coalition have agreed to a "permanent and serious cease-fire" to take effect immediately, AFP reported on 16 December citing an opposition source. The new cease-fire announcement followed further fighting around Beirut the previous day in which U.S. warships again shelled hostile positions, according to Beirut radio. The battleship *New Jersey* participated in the shelling, during which U.S. warships destroyed a number of positions in the mountains around Beirut occupied by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and its allies, Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, AFP reported that three French soldiers were injured in a bomb attack in Beirut and confirmed the deaths of two French soldiers earlier. The headquarters of the British contingent was hit by a rocket but no casualties were sustained, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Political Developments — Lebanon hopes to declare the date and venue of the second round of the National Dialogue Conference soon, President Amin al-Jumayyil announced in a statement in London broadcast by Beirut radio. The Lebanese hope the second round will lay the basis for complete reconciliation and will "define the prerogatives" of an expanded national unity government that will carry out internal reforms and arrange the withdrawal of the Multinational Force after the departure of non-Lebanese occupation forces, he added.

Dayr al-Qamar — The IDF completed the first stage of the evacuation of Dayr al-Qamar, transporting about 2,000 Phalangist militiamen from the town in IDF trucks while 500 Christian refugees left in buses, according to Jerusalem television and radio reports. However, the Lebanese Government did not fulfill its commitment to issue an official announcement presenting the evacuation as an agreement achieved in the deliberations of the joint Israeli-Lebanese military committee, the television asserted.

Syria

The head of Lebanese Army intelligence arrived in Damascus for talks "shrouded in absolute secrecy," Radio Monte Carlo reported. Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri also came to Damascus, while presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld held further talks with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam before departing, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft raided Iranian targets in Dehloran and Ilam on 15 December, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The attacks were in response to Iran's failure to respond to peace efforts, its continued shelling of Iraqi civilian targets, and its responsibility for "heinous crimes" against fraternal Arab countries, the spokesman stated. Confirming the air raids, IRNA reported that 10 civilians were hospitalized after the attack on Ilam but that no casualties were caused in Dehloran.

A joint revolution guards-Armed Forces statement reported by Tehran radio warned that Iranian soldiers and revolution guards will "take revenge on all the vile agents of East and West for the blood of these martyrs." Meanwhile, the Iranian deputy foreign minister told the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran that Kuwait should condemn the Iraqi missile attacks, which were launched on the "pretext" of defending Kuwait in an attempt to create more tension in the region, the radio noted.

Jordan

Dialogue between the two superpowers is necessary in order to tackle the peace process in the Middle East and the European countries should actively encourage Soviet participation in order to avoid the increasing threat of polarization and a "tragic explosion," King Husayn told the European Parliament in a speech broadcast by Amman radio. The king criticized U.S. "reluctance" to work "firmly and immediately" toward establishing peace and asserted that the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic agreements will result in U.S. funding for Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, thereby "flouting the form and substance" of President Reagan's peace plan. Jordan had pinned "great hopes" on the Reagan plan, he added, but the vitality of the initiative has disappeared and the momentum for peace has dwindled.

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Arab League Summit Scheduled For 31 March

LD211903 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1813 GMT
21 Dec 83

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Arab League has announced that the Arab foreign ministers will hold a meeting on 26 February in Riyadh, during which they will pave the way for the forthcoming Arab summit meeting due to be held in the same city on 31 March. A communique issued by the Arab League General Secretariat today says that the Arab foreign ministers will formulate a draft agenda for the summit meeting and documents pertaining to it.

The communique says that there will be at least 2 weeks between the meeting of the foreign ministers and the summit meeting, so the ministers can go back to their respective governments for more consultations. As for convening the preparatory meeting, member states will continue efforts to ensure the appropriate climate for a good preparation for the activity of the summit so as to secure the results anticipated by the Arab nation.

'Arafat To Meet Jordan's Husayn 'Next Few Days'

JN211851 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT
21 Dec 83

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn in the next few days. Speaking to journalists on board the ship that was transporting him from Tripoli, 'Arafat added that he will call for a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee before the end of this month and that his departure from Tripoli at the hands of the Syrian forces and dissidents is only one step in the long march toward Jerusalem.

Statement Issued on Expanded Palestinian Meeting

GF211643 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
21 Dec 83 p 4

[Joint political statement issued following the meeting of the joint command of the PFLP and the DFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party held in Damascus on 19 December 1983]

[Text] An expanded political meeting that included representatives of the joint command of the PFLP and the DFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Palestinian Liberation Front was held on 19 December 1983. The meeting reviewed the situation in the region, especially in light of the escalation of the aggressive U.S., Atlantic, and Israeliactivities and the indications of the latest U.S.-Israeli agreement. It also discussed the Palestinian situation after the events of Tripoli and the tasks of all the national Palestinian and Arab forces in uniting their ranks in order to confront decisively the imperialist and Zionist aggression.

The meeting decided the following:

1. The U.S.-Israeli agreement represents a specific step in the overall aggressive course pursued by the United States and Israel. This agreement, according to which the United States offers the maximum military and economic aid to Israel and which is the first of its kind in the history of relations between the two parties, also included a number of political and strategic steps represented by the absolute adherence to the surrender which is imposed on Lebanon and the common endeavor to remove the Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon for the purpose of turning Lebanon into an Israeli-U.S. protectorate and for the purpose of expanding the areas of deployment for the sectarian Lebanese Army at the expense of the Lebanese national forces and their role. It is obvious that these objectives can only be achieved by resorting to the aggressive means and war, especially against fraternal Syria. This is exactly what is being currently prepared by the Pentagon and the generals of Tel Aviv. This preparation began through the military operations that were launched with the participation and coordination of the U.S., Atlantic, and Israeli troops against the positions of the Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese Nationalist Forces.

The Arab and Syrian confrontation of this aggression and designs of the United States, NATO, and Israel is being supported by all the liberation and peace forces in the world, foremost of which is the Soviet Union. The firmness of the Syrian stand in the face of all forms of U.S. political and military blackmail represents a safety valve for protecting the national destiny. This requires the Arab countries and all nationalists and progressive forces to strongly back this by the effective support and all forms of political, popular and material struggle. It has become clear that the U.S.-Israeli alliance also includes the agreement of both sides to strengthen occupation of the Arab areas by expanding settlement projects and by the actual annexation. The U.S Administration has previously informed some Arab capitals that the agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv on the destiny of the Palestinian people, according to the expression of this administration, is represented by the endeavor to improve the quality of life of the Palestinians in the occupied lands. This confirms that the United States supports without any reservations the Israeli concept of autonomy which is based on the annexation of the occupied lands and on the limitation of the Palestinian people's rights by some of the informal administrative arrangements concerning the autonomous rule, the continuation of the settlement policy, and the preparations for dismissing many inhabitants outside their lands and homeland. This is now being carried out by the occupation troops in the name of resettling the refugees and liquidating the camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In light of that, this agreement threatens directly the interests and national rights of our people and their rights to exist in their homeland. This situation calls for supporting the struggle of our masses in the occupied lands — our masses who are confronting the Zionist terrorism and the conspiracy of settlement and autonomous rule — and calls for achieving the maximum level of unity and coordination both inside and outside the occupied lands and for working to revive the national Palestinian front inside those lands. The PLO should shoulder its responsibility in confronting this deadly threat and the Arab countries and all the allies of our people and their struggle should play their role at all Arab and international levels against the U.S. and Zionist designs to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

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